

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the above-identified application.

The examiner states that the claims of the present application are directed to four distinct species as disclosed in the following figures of the drawings:

FIGS. 1-5

FIGS. 6 and 6A

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

The examiner has required applicants to elect a single disclosed species under 35 USC 121 for prosecution on the merits if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The examiner cites claims 1, 14, 21, 30 and 34 as being generic.

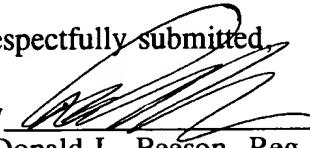
In response to the examiner's requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the species disclosed in FIGS. 1-5 for prosecution on the merits if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

This provisional election is made with traverse. As stated in MPEP 806.04(f):

Claims to be restricted to different species must be mutually exclusive. The general test as to whether claims are restricted, respectively, to different species, is the fact that one claim recites limitations which under the disclosure are found in a first species, but not in a second, while a second claim recites limitations disclosed only for the second species and not the first. This is frequently expressed by saying that claims to be restricted to different species must recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species.

Claims 1-3, 8, 10-11, 14-37 cover the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 1-5. However, these claims are not mutually exclusive, and the remaining claims directed to other embodiments are also not mutually exclusive. It is therefore requested that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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